

April 26, 1966

Approved For Release 2004/12/15 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700420011-0

STATION OR NETWORK:

WMAL Radio, ABC

TIME:

6:35 P.M.

25X1

MEN STILL DO WANT TO BE FREE -- EVERYWHERE

DR. WALTER H. JUDD: In late February, reports from Budapest told of the detention of a number of Hungarian clerics and citizens arrested on charges of renewed plotting against the state. A feeling of tension and unrest was said to be spreading from the capital city to the country side. Then as quickly as the wave began to rise, it subsided. And on February 27 a correspondent from a leading U. S. newspaper wrote in part, and I quote:

"For days Budapest has enjoyed June in February. But as people with some knowledge of deceptive appearances, Hungarians had worried while the sun shone. What will happen to all the precocious birds and buds when seasonal weather returns, they asked. Or they say, wait until the weather comes back to its senses -- we'll all be coughing and sneezing again. But none of these cautious could dull the pleasure of a Sunday like today. Budapest seemed the beautiful, carefree city of its legend."

This pastoral account of a Sunday in Budapest certainly seemed to refute earlier reports from London and Paris, and particularly from the newspaper in question, that all was not serene in the communist state of Janos Kadar. How is this possible? Is there political unrest in Budapest, or are people there more concerned about the weather than about anything else? The answer, in large measure can be found in a little known report of another sort, published last month by the CIA Subcommittee of the House Committee on Armed Services. A major portion of this 46-page document is a detailed account of the activities and operations of the Hungarian Security and Intelligence Service -- the AVH. It was given to the Subcommittee by (Lasal Slobul?) who served the AVH for 20 years and then defected in London, in October last year.

Here, in part is how Mr. Slobul describes the purpose of the AVH, and I quote him: "AVH protects the Party and the government from all inside and outside enemies. Since 1956 they have re-organized and have tightened up the work within the country."

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All the time they watch what they call the most dangerous elements of society, members of churches, intellectuals, people of old regimes, the old army and police officer, people who used to be something -- and also young people. You would think they would trust the young people they are educating their way. But no, they are not trusted either." That's the end of the quote by former Hungarian secret police officer Slobul.

After reading the CIA Subcommittee report, one can understand the swiftness with which the AVH is ready to act at the first sign of popular discontent. I have no doubt this is what happened in Hungary in February, and that unseasonable mild weather in Budapest in no way describes the wintry political climate that prevails from season to season for the captive people of Hungary. Men still do want to be free -- everywhere.